

## Church News.

### FROM RONEY CREEK, KAN.

Sunday evening of May 17th will long be remembered from the sad experience of our people who were in the wake of the terrible cyclone that swept over northeastern Kansas and southeastern Nebraska leaving devastation, wreck, ruin and death in its track.

The day had been warm and bright until the middle of the afternoon when clouds began to form in the southwest and as evening drew on they became more dense while the lightning flashed and the roar of the thunder was deafening.

About sunset rain set in and at 8 P. M. it was noticeable that there was war in the elements and people becoming alarmed sought refuge in caves and cellars. Persons who witnessed the approaching storm tell us that it came like a barrel rolling end over end. It swept in all its fury through the center of my congregation laying waste everything in its pathway.

After destroying the north half of Sabetha it leaped over a portion of country and descended again at Bro. Mahlon Miller's destroying his barns.

The U. B. church close by was totally wrecked. Between that and our church nearly every building was destroyed. Our church, a large substantial building, was carried from the foundation and crushed to pieces. Had it not been for the rain preventing the people from congregating doubtless lives would have been lost. Seemingly with increased fury it struck the four corners where stood the large and strong buildings of Bro. Jacob Lichty and Dan Saylor. Brother Jacob seeing the approaching storm gathered his family in the cellar placing them against the west wall which proved a place of salvation to them. The large twelve room house and barn were crushed to pieces and carried for more than a half mile, scarcely enough left near the foundation for a photo.

After the houses were blown away the people were exposed to the rain, hail and mud that was driven upon them and having no lights were obliged to hunt places of shelter in the dark guided only by the flash of lightning.

After Bro. Jacob found a place of partial shelter for his family he started to look after his neighbors. Bro. Dan Saylor's was the first and nearest one, and now comes the sad part of our story.

Bro. Dan's family in connection with some of his neighbors took refuge also in the cellar but at different places. His aged mother, the hired man and the family who had stopped there during the storm

went to one place and were uninjured. But Bro. Dan, his wife and sister, Schrock, stood together midway along the south wall and when the house was blown from the foundation, the wall was dragged in upon them crushing them forward upon their faces, killing the two women and injuring Bro. Dan badly. The two sisters went down in death with their arms encircling each other. Dan, with almost superhuman effort extricated himself and suffering from a crushed hand, broken arm and bruised body in general, dragged himself to a corner in the cellar and remained there until help arrived.

Sister Lizzie Saylor will be remembered by our eastern friends as Lizzie Lichty, sister of H. M.

Sister Schock was living in the family having come from Indiana some two years ago and united with our congregation. It can be truthfully said that two Christian women met death together.

Brother Eakin's family had a narrow escape. After the house was blown away there was debris of all kinds thrown in the cellar but fortunately none were injured. Escapes in some instances were miraculous.

Our church known as the Bethany house was also destroyed. Seven churches within a distance of ten miles entirely ruined. We hope to rebuild at sometime but it will be hard upon our members as so many have suffered loss.

Truly this is the year of storms. *How soon are all things that are material swept away. The things that are seen are temporal but the unseen are eternal. How helpless are we when the protecting hand of God is withdrawn from us. God help us to lay hold upon the things that are eternal for they only can withstand the storm.*

J. W. BURNWORTH.

### TO THE MINISTERS OF INDIANA.

Elsewhere in this issue is to be found the program of our coming Institute at Flora.

We have endeavored to make the program as *complete* as possible. The *instructiveness* of it now depends on *you*.

Those to whom papers were assigned have been notified by letter, and those to whom "Bible Studies" have been assigned will be notified by this, as well as by postal.

We want to make this the most profitable Institute yet held by us; and this is possible only when there is co-operation by all members, and studied preparation by those assigned work.

There are two ways of preparing for our Institute:

- (a) By study.
- (b) By prayer; or the preparation of the *head*, and the preparation of the *heart*.

Of these two, the last is the most necessary.

Bishop Saunderson says, "To study without prayer is Atheism." The Bible, the book with which *we* have to do is *God's Book*; and *He* alone through the *Holy Spirit*, can illuminate us, and open our eyes so as "To behold wondrous things" out of his word.

Dr. Payson tells us, That when he began to ask God's blessings on his studies, he accomplished more in a week than in a month before.

Let us, brethren of the ministry, pray earnestly and unitedly, for more of this preparation of the heart; let us remember our Institute when we appear before God in prayer; let us make it a *special* subject of prayer at some service; let us pray definitely for the Holy Spirit's guidance.

Yours in His name,

WM. D. FURRY, Sec'y.

### AT WORK.

On the 9th of April I left home for my work in Indiana. Am making Loree my stopping place, as I am to serve them till the State Conference.

Visited the church at College Corners, where I found a large Sunday-school and hospitable people. Held five meetings, secured twenty subscriptions to EVANGELIST and sold some Bibles and tracts.

Friday returned to Loree. On the way I met Brother Summers, who was going to his appointment at College Corners where he was also to address the township Sunday-school convention.

At Twelve Mile—Brother Swihart, pastor—met Sister Grossnickle, who preached three well appreciated sermons. This was her first visit to this church. By help of our aged Brother Young we secured sixteen subscriptions to EVANGELIST. Eleven new and five old ones.

At Oakville, one of brother R. R. Teefer's charges, I only secured a few names for the paper. I hope however that the local agent will be able to increase the list. They promised to use the Brethren literature in their Sunday-school.

At Eaton most of the members were taking the EVANGELIST. Here we enjoyed a pleasant communion. Our communion at Loree was greatly enjoyed.

I am very grateful for the kindness shown me in these churches.

After an absence of six weeks I returned home. Found all well for which we are thankful to our Heavenly Father.

ISAAC ROSS.